

MCELROY ET AL

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 on page 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For this purpose, as shown in the layer 1 subroutine diagram of Figure 3, at step 301, the line rate is determined. As pointed out above, determining the line rate is based upon a priori rate negotiation information available from equipment vendors (e.g., Conextant Autobaud, Nokia initial rate select, etc.). In step 301, such line rate negotiation information, as stored in a table, is sequentially examined. If the line rate is identified from an available vendor (the result of step 301 is a SUCCESS), the sub-routine transitions to step 304, where layer 1 encoding is determined, as will be described.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 26 bridging pages 8-9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, if an available vendor data fails to enable the line rate to be determined (the result of step 301 is a FAILURE), the routine transitions to step 302, which proceeds to scan all possible line rates. If the line rate is determined in step 302, (the result of step 302 is a SUCCESS), the sub-routine transitions to step 304. If no line rate is found in either of steps 301 or 302 (the result of step 302 is a FAILURE), it is inferred that the line rate cannot be determined, as denoted by the state "Automatic Configuration failed" 303, and the routine reverts back to the start of the auto-configuration sequence of Figure 2.